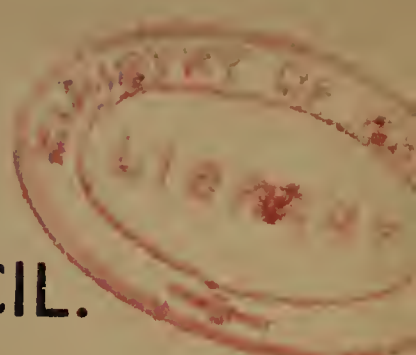


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WESTHOUGHTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.



FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT—STAFF.

The Staff consists of Medical Officer of Health, two Sanitary Inspectors, a Clerk and two Health Visitors, having respectively the following qualifications:—

WILLIAM H. LEIGH, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

J. OCCLESHAW, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate,
Royal Sanitary Institute, and
Certificate as Inspector of Meat
and other Foods—Royal Sanitary
Institute.

F. J. A. GREEN, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I.,

Part-time Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of the Institute of
Sanitary Engineers and Sanitary
Inspector's Certificate, Royal
Sanitary Institute.

A. WOOD, Health Visitor.

Hospital Training and C.M.B.

M. E. JAMES, Health Visitor.

Health Visitor's Certificate,
Royal Sanitary Institute, and
C.M.B.

JOAN W. ASHTON, Clerk.

The Health Visitors were transferred to the service of the Lancashire County Council, who became the Authority for the administration of Maternity and Child Welfare on October 1st.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Westhoughton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Condition and Administration of the District during the year 1938.

Review of statistics shews that the birth-rate is lower than last year. The rate was 13.4 compared with 14.2 last year, and 15.1 for England and Wales.

The death-rate this year is higher, being 13.2 against 10.8 last year, and 11.6 for the whole country.

The number of notifiable diseases was 117, as compared with 53 last year.

The Infantile death-rate is 59, as compared with 60 last year, and a five years' average of 63.

The number of houses erected during 1938 was:—

By Local Authority	...	...	...	—
By private enterprise	...	...	...	55

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—5,560 acres.

Census Population, 1931—16,018.

Estimated Population—14,980.

Reduced Rateable Value—£62,732.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£248.

No. of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (end of 1938)—4,029.

No. of Inhabited Houses according to Census, 1931—3,945.

No. of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1931)—4,166.

Extent of Unemployment:—Wholly Unemployed—Men 43.2 per cent.; Women 19.0 per cent.; Average 32.9 per cent.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Industrial:—

Cotton Spinning and Weaving, Brick Making, Steel Erecting,
Pre-cast Concrete Work.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1938.

Live Births:—

			Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	193	96	97
Illegitimate	...	...	8	6	2

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.4.

			Total.	M.	F.
Stillbirths	...	...	10	5	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—47.

			Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	199	114	85

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.2.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil.	Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births—59.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—62.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—20.

„ Measles (all ages)—3.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—2.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Year	Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 births
1938	13.4	13.2	0.20	59
1937	14.2	10.8	0.26	60
Mean of 5 years : 1933-1937 ...	13.4	11.8	0.33	63
Increase or decrease in 1938 on 5 year's average	....	+ 1.4	-0.13	-4
Increase or decrease in 1938 on previous year	-0.8	+ 2.4	-0.06	-1

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered during the year was 201. Of these, 102 were males and 99 females. This is equal to a birth-rate of 13.4 compared with 14.2 last year, and 13.4 for the last five years.

The rate for England and Wales was 15.1.

There were eight illegitimate births.

Year	Total Births	Males	Females	Birth-rate	County Urban Birth-rate	England and Wales
1938	201	102	99	13.4	....	15.1
1937	215	114	101	14.2	13.78	14.9
1936	198	102	96	12.8	13.62	14.8
1935	211	116	95	13.5	13.30	14.7
1934	201	100	101	12.7	13.38	14.8

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during 1938 was 199, equal to a crude death-rate of 13.2 per 1,000 per annum. Last year the rate was 10.8, and that for the last five years was 11.8.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.16.

Year	Deaths under one year	Total Deaths	Death-rate	County Urban Death-rate	England and Wales
1938	12	199	13.2	....	11.6
1937	13	164	10.8	13.47	12.4
1936	9	204	13.2	13.09	12.1
1935	6	173	11.1	12.78	11.7
1934	18	194	12.3	12.21	11.8

Registrar-General's Returns of Causes of Death.

				M.	F.
All causes	...	...	...	114	85
Measles	...	...	..	—	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	2
Influenza	...	...	...	2	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System				1	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases			...	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease			...	8	12
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.			...	13	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	29	18
Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases			...	6	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	9	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...		...	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases			...	4	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	2
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.			...	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases			...	4	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis			...	2	2

			M.	F.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	2	4
Senility	...	...	13	8
Suicide	...	...	1	2
Other Violence	...	...	2	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	6	7

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year there were registered 12 deaths of children under one year. This is equal to an Infantile death-rate of 59 per 1,000 births. Last year the rate was 60. The average for the last five years is 63. Last year's rate for England and Wales was 58.

Analysis of the Registrar-General's Returns shews that of the twelve children who died, one failed to survive the first day, while three others died during the first week of life. Six deaths were certified as due to Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare scheme was transferred to the Lancashire County Council at the end of September. The scheme functions in a manner almost identical with that obtaining prior to the transfer. The staff remains the same as regards personnel.

The Child Welfare Centres and Artificial Light Clinics are held twice each week, while the Ante-natal Clinic continues on each alternate Monday. The latter Clinic is attended by the County Midwives, who thus get an opportunity for familiarising themselves with the conditions of their patients.

The various County Hospitals and Specialist services are available for suitable cases, and included are puerperal, dental, ophthalmic and orthopædic affections and the treatment of tonsils and adenoids.

It is claimed that there is an advantage in the present scheme under which one Authority is now responsible for Ante-natal days, through childhood, on to school-leaving age.

The supply of free milk continues in necessitous cases, and certain dried foods can be obtained at practically cost price by any mother whose child attends the Centre.

During the months which have passed since the transfer, I have formed the opinion that the scheme is satisfactory as regards efficiency, and I believe the district gains by the change. Here, I would like to pay tribute to all who gave service in various ways to this excellent cause during the years when the Local Council was the responsible Authority.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Arrangements exist for the investigation of maternal deaths by the Medical Officer. A special confidential report on each case is made to the Ministry of Health. There were no such deaths during 1938.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908 (as amended by Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

The two Health Visitors are the specially appointed Visitors under the above Act.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

There were notified 117 cases of infectious diseases (including 2 cases of Pneumonia), compared with 53 last year. The ward distribution of these cases was as follows:—

Disease	Central	North	South	East	Hulton	Total
Scarlet Fever	17	6	14	8	3	48
Diphtheria	12	8	16	8	7	51
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	—	2	4
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	1	1	1	3	2	8
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorium	1	—	1	—	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	1	—	—	—	1
	33	16	35	19	14	117

During the year the following cases were admitted to the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Horwich:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	47
Diphtheria	...	...	...	62

The following Tables give a summary of cases occurring during the year:—

Disease	CASES NOTIFIED											Total cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 and over		
Diphtheria	51	....	1	....	6	24	16	1	3	....	....	48	3
Erysipelas	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	1	5	....	....
Scarlet Fever	48	....	....	6	5	18	12	4	3	....	....	47	1
Enteric Fever ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dysentery ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	....	....	4	....
Pneumonia	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	8
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cerebro-Spinal Fvr Acute	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Poliomyelitis	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Encephalitis Lethargica ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Measles ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Diarrhœa ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Totals	117	2	1	7	11	43	28	6	12	1	6	101	17

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	Hospital				
2	2	....	2	....	....	....

Anti-Diphtheria Serum and supplies of swabs are kept at the Town Hall and at the Central Police Station for emergency use.

The disinfection of houses was carried out in 117 cases:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	42
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	66
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis, following admission to Sanatorium					2
„ following deaths		...	...	...	3
					117

Seven Schools were fumigated during an outbreak of Diphtheria.

Four Houses were fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas for extermination of vermin.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there were notified 12 cases of this disease. Of these 1 was respiratory and 11 of non-respiratory type.

Notification of this disease appears to have been efficient. The affected houses have been inspected, thoroughly disinfected, and precautions taken to prevent the further spread of the disease.

It was not found necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 32.

The Care Committee has carried out excellent work as in former years.

By this means substantial help is provided in cases of necessity, and after return from Sanatorium the patient is encouraged and helped to continue at home the line of treatment undergone during the stay in the institution.

Tuberculosis. New cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age-Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
1—5	....	....	4	1	....	....	1	....
5—10	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....
10—15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
20—25	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25—35	....	....	2	....	1	1	2	....
35—45	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....
45—55	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
55—65	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
TOTALS	1	....	9	2	1	4	3	1
	1		11		5		4	

LEGISLATION IN FORCE WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

The following have been adopted by the Council:—

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Bye-laws relating to Public Health:—

Common Lodging Houses, 1873.

Slaughter-houses, 1873.

Nuisances, 1873.

Cleansing of Footways, 1873.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, 1921.

Streets and Buildings, 1925.

Wireless Installations, 1927.

Markets, 1927.

Water, waste of, etc., 1927.

Smoke Abatement, 1928.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General Nursing. This is provided by the Local Voluntary Sick Nursing Association.
- (b) For measles, etc., a Health Visitor is detailed to give advice, etc., in times of epidemic. The Local Authority do not subsidise the Local Nursing Association.

Midwives.

The number of midwives practising in the district is 5.

Hospitals.

The following is a list of Hospitals used by inhabitants and situated outside the district:—

Wigan Infirmary.

Bolton Infirmary.

St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

Royal Children's Hospital, Manchester.

Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester.

Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Townley's Hospital, Bolton (Public Assistance Committee's Institution).

Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

The motor ambulance service has again been satisfactory, being worked under contract by a local garage; the arrangements made provide for day and night service, and no charge is made for the use of the ambulance.

The following is a summary of the journeys undertaken:—

Bolton	Manchester	Wigan	Other Towns	Local	Total Journeys
359	1	3	12	17	392

The Infectious Diseases Hospital Motor Ambulance is provided for Infectious cases.

Water Supply.

The water supply for the district is obtained from the reservoirs of Bolton Corporation. Analysis has shewn the quality to be satisfactory.

Arrangements for Laboratory Work.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester. During the year 83 specimens were submitted for examination and report.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The following is a summary of routine work during the year:—

Nature of Premises	No. of Visits Paid	Defects or Nuisances Discovered	Action Taken	Result
Dwelling-houses	3103	Drains, general repairs, and conversion to W.C.'s	Notices to Owners	Defects remedied
Factories and Workshops	184	Improvement of Sanitary conveniences maintained	Do.	Additional W.C.s provided.
Bakehouses, &c.	90	Notices re entries in registers and limewashing	Notices as required	Work done
Cowsheds, Dairies, &c.	284	Improvement in method. Repairs and improvements to Buildings. Provision of Dairies and Can Washing Rooms	Reported to Occupiers and Owners	New plans submitted and New Buildings erected. General Improvement in method continued.
Slaughter-houses and Meat Shops	1350	Limewashing. Repairs Notice of Slaughter	Reported to Owners	Orders complied with
Food Hawkers Carts and Markets	210	Meat Regulations. Default in protection of Meat	Warnings issued	Satisfactory, Improved.
Shops	360	Absence of conveniences	None	....
Schools	52	Re yard surfaces	Re Play Grounds	Improvements
Cinemas, etc.	80	Satisfactory	Nil.	....

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The system of sewage disposal has been reported satisfactory.

The method is one of chemical precipitation and filtration.

The District is served by eight sections of sewers and the sewage is treated by chemicals with lime precipitation and irrigation.

The first section drains the whole of Daisy Hill, Leigh Road, Park Road, Manchester Road—Chequerbent to Hulton Lane Ends. The second section drains Wearish Lane, Hart Common, Market Street, Church Street, Wigan Road, Bolton Road, Manchester Road—Chequerbent to Wingates and Chorley Road, Wingates to Fourgates. The sewage from the Bolton Corporation Housing Estate at Hunger Hill (adjoining the district boundary on Bolton Road) is also conveyed by this section. Both sections deliver at Rogers Farm Sewage Works.

The sewage, having first been mixed with sulphate of iron, and then with lime, is led into detritus and precipitating tanks, each with a capacity of 250,000 gallons. After precipitation, the effluent is distributed by four revolving sprinklers on to filter beds, followed by settlement into humus tanks. The effluent has been frequently taken for analysis by the Mersey and Irwell Water Board Inspector.

The sewage from the third section is delivered at Dog Holes Farm (21 acres) and is led on to the land and treated by irrigation alone.

The sewage from the fourth section (Hart Common and Marsh Brook) is delivered at Marsh Brook Farm (14 acres) and treated by irrigation.

The fifth section, draining the New Brook Road portion of Hulton Ward, is delivered into the sewers of the Atherton Urban District Council and treated by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Board at a yearly charge per house of £1 3s. 6d.

The sixth section drains the Dicconson Lane portion of North Ward and is treated at a small works, comprising detritus and septic tanks, with percolating filter.

The seventh section drains a small portion of Wigan Road near the boundary at Marsh Brook and is received into the Hindley Council's sewer.

The eighth section drains the west side of Hulton Lane and is connected to the Bolton Corporation's sewer.

The sewage system has worked well during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In order to prevent the pollution of streams, inspections of ditches and watercourses have been made and notice served where necessary for the cleansing of same.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1938.

Privy midden. No. of middens—102; No. of closets attached to these middens—148, including those situated upon farms.

No. of chemical closets—6.

No. of premises having ashpits (excluding middens)—511.

No. of fresh water closets—4,444.

No. of movable ashbins for refuse—3,736.

No. of waste water closets—81.

Conversions:—

No. of waste W.C.'s to fresh W.C.'s during 1937—4.

The Council contributes half the cost of conversion of privy closets and waste water closets to fresh water closets.

There are 10 Septic Tanks in the district.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

House refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour. The transport is by two motor vehicles.

The work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, a foreman having oversight of the workmen engaged on refuse collection and disposal.

Slaughter-house offal is removed twice weekly by the Council, a charge of 1/- per week being made to the owners of slaughter-houses.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. This has proved satisfactory, and the recommendations of the Ministry of Health are carried out.

The number of dry ashpits has been reduced by 2 during the year as a result of voluntary conversions to ashes bins.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken:—

No. of houses found to be infested:

(a) Council Houses —; (b) Other Houses 4.

No. of houses disinfested:

(a) Council Houses —; (b) Other Houses 4.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses:—Fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide Gas.

Methods employed for ensuring that belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses:—In doubtful cases bedding is treated in steam disinfectors whilst furniture and other belongings are fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas; 3 cases have been dealt with in this manner.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor?—Contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision of cases:—Cases kept under observation by Housing Manager.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two Offensive Trade Premises in the District, a Fat Extractor and a Tripe-Dresser. New concentrators have been provided for fat extraction, and chlorine plant deodorises all foul vapours which are given off during process.

SCHOOLS.

As previously pointed out, there is need of improvement in the surface of several of the school playgrounds.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been regularly inspected and their sanitary condition reported satisfactory. 184 visits were paid to premises during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 32 of these in the district and reports show that their conduct has been satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Periodic sampling has been carried out by the Inspector.

60 samples of milk were submitted for routine analysis.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These have been frequently visited during the year. The number of visits paid was 262.

At 74 registered premises there are approximately 1,099 cattle and 120 cowsheds.

Further progress has been made in the improvement of shippens, dairies and equipment. The approximate cost of work carried out in the District was £1,050.

The Lancashire County Council has granted Licences to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk to two farmers.

The County Council have issued Licences to five milk producers for the production of "Accredited" Milk.

The improvement in cleanliness and method of production has been maintained.

175 samples of milk were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, to be examined for bacteriological count and bacillus coli. Of the 175 samples, 140 were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. In 14 cases a positive result was returned, and the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer visited the farms to take further samples and examine cattle.

The cost of examination for bacterial count and bacillus coli was borne by the Westhoughton Urban District Council.

A warning was issued where excessive bacteriological count had been found.

Milk (Special Designations) Order:—40 samples of “ Tuberculin Tested ” and “ Accredited ” Milk were taken on behalf of the Lancashire County Council and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 12 Slaughter-houses in the district, and with minor exceptions inspection has shewn them to be fairly satisfactory.

Under the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924, the Inspector has paid 1,335 visits for the specific purpose of meat inspection.

During the year it was found necessary to condemn as unfit for food a total quantity of meat amounting to 12,411 lbs. Of this total tuberculosis was responsible in the case of 10,686 lbs.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

This is the form of the Annual Schedule supplied to the Lancashire County Council.

(a) STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	...	...	55
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil.
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	55
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—				
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil.
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	Nil.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	365
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	1976
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	126
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	784
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	126

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	98
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 21
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 21
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 27
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 27
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

4. **Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—**

(a) (i)	Number of families overcrowded at end of the year ...	27
(ii)	Number of families therein	30
(iii)	Number of persons therein	...161½
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	26
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	...168½

(b) **HOUSING CONDITIONS.**

1. **General Observations as to Housing Conditions,** including the

standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding:—

Standard fair—65 per cent. of cottages built in rows. Of these about 8 per cent. are estimated to be more than 100 years old. General soundness is mainly satisfactory. Prevailing forms of defects chiefly met with in oldest type are dampness, darkness and general disrepair.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district:—None.

2. **Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.**

(a) Extent of shortage, if any, of houses available at reasonable rents, and the measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage:—70 applications for houses received during the year, 85 per cent. of which were already householders. No measures taken during 1938. Position has been examined and is under observation.

(b) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future—None.

(c) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses?—No.

3. **Overcrowding.**

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by local authority which have been relieved during 1938 ...None.
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations ...None.
- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...None.
- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes—how far is it due to inability to pay rents of available houses, etc.?—Inability to pay rents is a factor in a number of cases, due to continued low incomes.

4. **Fitness of Houses.**

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts.—None.
- (b) Special measures taken or suggested, e.g., in relation to particular types of insanitary property or in regard to arrangements for the gradual carrying out of programmes of repair. Routine measures, following inspection. In a number of cases owners have been interviewed.
- (c) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply.—2.
- (d) Number of houses which have no separate water closets or other adequate sanitary accommodation.—None.

5. **Unhealthy Areas.**

Extent to which areas of the district are unhealthy, with information as to complaints received.—No evidence of unhealthy areas. No complaints received.

6. **Action taken during the year regarding:—**

Clearance Areas:

No. of areas represented:—None.

No. of areas cleared:—1, comprising 3 houses.

No. of new houses built to re-house displaced tenants:—None—re-housed in existing empty houses.

Improvement Areas:

No. of areas represented:—None.

Summary of Clearance Orders made in 1938 and Results.

Name of Order.	Number of Houses to be Demolished.	Date of Confirmation by the Minister.
None	—	—

7. Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Adequacy of existing bye-laws of each class, and special difficulties in or limits upon their enforcement:—Adequate.

- 8. General observations on housing matters not already covered,** and on any difficulties experienced in housing administration, and the measures taken to meet them:—Housing in general has made satisfactory progress. No difficulties experienced in administration.

Local Authority's Housing Scheme:—

Give brief particulars of any scheme now in hand or contemplated:—None.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM H. LEIGH.

12th July, 1939.

